

# FU CSIT alumni PDATE

Issue #4



Happened in  
**2007**

**CITA '07**

SOCIAL COMPUTING:  
ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

  
**maxis**

Content Challenge 2007

From

**Satyam**

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no.4  
2007

The... of the  
Faculty of Computer Science And Information Technology (FCSIT)  
Alumni Association





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## An alumnus or alumna of FoCuS-IT

Since the first graduation in 1997, the faculty has produced more than a thousand computer scientists and I believe now they are now working in a variety of professions. About five years back, the faculty set up an alumni association to manage alumni related matters particularly in mobilizing the alumni to join their alma mater. Later, the first issue of the alumni magazine was released in 2004, with the aim to maintain rapports between the alumni and the faculty.

At present, the FoCuS-IT Alumni Association is strategising the efforts to facilitate the alumni is return and contribution to the faculty and community. Currently, the FoCuS-IT Alumni Association together with the other faculties are working on creating chapters of alumni for the university. For a start, the UNIMAS Alumni lead by Prof Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid, has organized a Hi-Tea which was held at the West Campus. There will be more activities to come, such as road show, motivational talk, incubator program and homecoming. All to substantiate the presence of UNIMAS Alumni. So, when you hear from us, please join and participate.

We have the faculty and the university alumni website for you to keep in touch and share your ideas with fellow alumni. Please email to us, as your responses are important for us for future perfection. Nonetheless, personally I would like to personally thank all the members of the editorial board for their time and dedicated hard work in publishing this issue. Enjoy reading and keep in touch with the Association and Alumni Office.



Mohamad Nazri Bin Khairuddin (FIT IS 02 )  
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The article printed here, to the best of our knowledge, were correct at the time of going to press. We cannot guarantee all the articles submitted will be printed and we reserve the right to edit materials where necessary. Furthermore, the views expresses in the magazines are not necessary those of FCSIT, the FCSIT Association or the editor.

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I would like to congratulate the Alumni Association of the Faculty for coming up with this fourth issue of the Alumni Update. As Alumni, you are a stakeholder of the institution. You have an important role to play in shaping the progress of the university to achieve greater heights. We value all your expertise and talents and look forward to a meaningful collaboration. We have recently initiated talks by our Alumni in an effort to inspire and groom our undergraduates to excel in their careers. I would like to see more of you coming forward to share your ideas and experiences with our students and us.

There are two important objectives within the next two years where alumni can play important roles in these. The first is to increase our student population where we have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of intake for the past few years. The alumni can play an important role to create awareness in the general public on the study opportunity in the faculty and at the same time provide information on the career path and work opportunities (after graduation) based on their own experience. The second is, to increase involvement of the alumni in some of the faculty initiative such as our own Incubation Centre for Industrial Training where we will create a working environment with the required facilities to cater for our own students in terms of Industrial Training.

I would also like to encourage the alumni to start contributing their knowledge and expertise to help their local community. They can be involved in community project such as providing ICT training to people in the villages.

I would like to thank Mr Nazri and his team of committee members, for taking up the challenge to establish the Alumni Association and for the continuous efforts in promoting the faculty Alumni activities of the Faculty. We now have an annual newsletter and a website which has become the model for other faculties and UNIMAS.

Please inform your friends about the site and register yourself online to keep abreast of the latest happenings. A mailing list has been created where we will put up all updates, announcements, career opportunities, etc. We welcome your feedback and input.

*Johari Bin Abdullah*  
Dean  
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**CITA'07**  
THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IT IN ASIA 2007  
"SOCIAL COMPUTING: ENGAGING COMMUNITIES"

OFFICIATED BY

YAB PEHIN SRI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD  
CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK

9TH - 12TH JULY 2007

HILTON HOTEL, KUCHING



Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. George Chan giving his opening speech during CITA'07 opening ceremony.

# CITA '07

## SOCIAL COMPUTING: ENGAGING COMMUNITIES



During the Opening Ceremony of 5th International Conference on IT in Asia 2007 (CITA'07).



Prof. Dr. Murtedza Mohamed presenting a token of appreciation to Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. George Chan after the opening ceremony of CITA'07.

The International Conference on IT in Asia reflects the increasing focus on issues concerned with ICTs in developing countries. The main aim of the conference is to examine the continuing roles of ICTs within the prevailing challenges of development faced by the region. In its 5th run, the conference focused on Social Computing.

Social Computing is the result of the transformation brought about by the technological advancement of the Internet as seen through Web 2.0. This participatory architecture, where systems are designed and developed based on user contribution, is the order of the day. Software developments and web models have reversed its hierarchy to adopt a more bottom-up implementation and top-down initiation structure thus creating a wider participation of users whether in creation of a product or in the discovery of a knowledge system.

Social Computing lays the platform where a broad range of users can effectively collaborate and contribute ideas, experience and expertise towards an existing knowledge-box. Grid Computing has enabled scientific communities to share large resources of data and information in labs located at far corners of the continent while the digital gap in rural communities is narrowed further with contributions from community



informatics and implemented using Wired and Wireless technologies. Mobile Computing coupled with Multimedia enriched-contents are targeted at urban communities with the thirst for more novel and engaging experience through gadget and communication innovations. The bottom line is, social computing optimizes high-value tacit interaction between people creating a collected and sustainable driver of productivity.

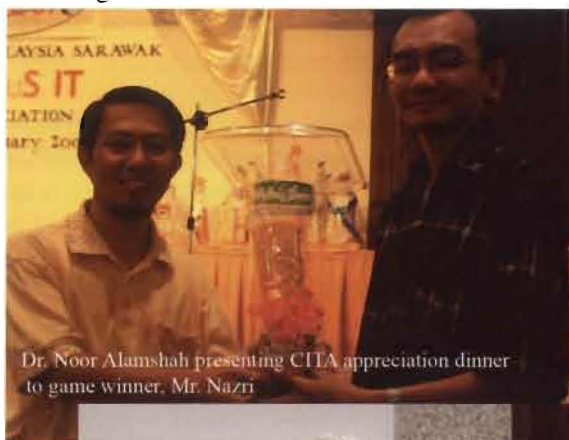
Systematically the Internet and physical world is getting more tightly coupled/integrated and seamless. This phenomenon known as Internet Singularity is destined to accelerate scientific achievements, overcome the challenges of businesses and enrich our society. This conference will provide a platform for researchers and industry players to discuss the role and impact of Social Computing as well as sharing ideas on implementations and integration of these emergent technologies.



CITA appreciation dinner



Prof. Ian Witten conducting his workshop during CITA'07 workshop-session in FCSIT computer lab



Dr. Noor Alamshah presenting CITA appreciation dinner to game winner, Mr. Nazri



Children participating in Pop-D-Balloon game during CITA Appreciation Dinner



Adjunct Professors (From Left to Right): Prof. Erwin, Associate Prof. Narayanan Kulathuramaiyer, Prof. Dr. Peter Songan, Prof. Taylor and Prof. Dr. Khairuddin Ab Hamid





## From Satyam

For the whole month of February 2008, I was in India to attend the Faculty Sabbatical Program (FSP) organized by Satyam Computer Services Ltd. (NYSE: SAY). Together with 24 other faculty members from various universities in Malaysia, we had undergone this program to help us gain a clear understanding of Satyam's learning model which will enable us to groom fresh graduates for entry level positions.

The scopes of the program included technology, process and essential behavioral traits. In addition, we were also exposed to real life projects and understanding of the critical factors that can ensure the success of a project.

We arrived at Hyderabad Airport at 12:30 am (8:30 pm Malaysia time) on February and were directed to Satyam Learning Center (STC) which was approximately an hour from the airport. STC covers an area of around 115 acres. It has two IT centers (development centers).



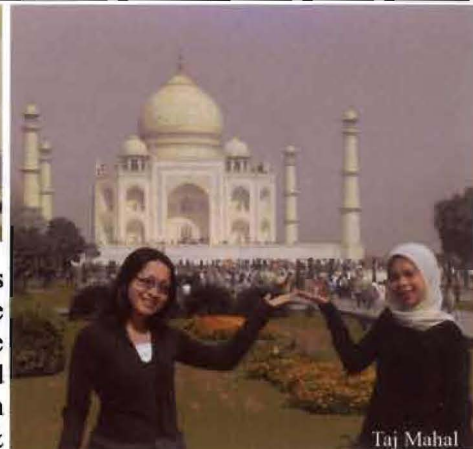
Faculty Sabbatical Program Committees and Malaysian faculty members

During the FSP, Satyam facilitators shared their teaching practices in the domains of behavior and software technology. Soft skills sessions covered important aspects like Focusing on Strengths, Managing Time, Creative & Critical Thinking, Communication, Team Values and Embracing Change. I have gained a lot through this program: how to manage real-life projects besides improving and enhancing my communication skills.

We did not miss out on the opportunity to visit a few fascinating places at the two cities of Andhra Pradesh: Hyderabad and Secunderabad. This pair is known to most Indians as "The Twin Cities". We visited Charminar, Mecca Mosque, Salar Jung Museum, Golconda Fort and Shilparamam. Charminar literally means the Four Minarets or towers, an old bazaar selling pearls, bangles, clothes and accessories for Hyderabad brides. The great Mecca Mosque located at southwest of Charminar reputedly hold bricks brought from the holy city of Mecca. An amazing collection of arts, artifacts and ornaments displayed in the Salar Jung Museum is worth



Charminar tower



Taj Mahal

lingering over. Meanwhile, the Golconda Fort is one of the most magnificent fortress complexes in India. We spend hours shopping at Shilparamam. Shilparamam is a crafts village inspired with authentic local village decorative-brick structure and walls decorated with traditional rangoli motifs.

A visit to India is not complete without visiting Taj Mahal, the glorious mausoleum built for of love which is located in Agra, India. Agra is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh in the northern region of India. It is approximately 200 kilometers from Delhi, the capital of India. We traveled to New Delhi by air and the journey took us about 3 hours which is similar duration to flying from KLIA to Hyderabad Airport. The massive marble structure of the Taj Mahal is awe-inspiring. It is no wonder it is listed among the 7 wonders of the world. It was like a dream come true when I stepped my feet in the monument. No words can describe the beauty and grandeur of the Taj Mahal.

After completing the FSP, we went back to Malaysia on 2nd March. I would like to express my infinite gratitude to Satyam for organizing this program, Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and also UNIMAS for giving me the opportunity to represent UNIMAS in this program. The knowledge and experiences I gained are worth sharing with everyone.

*Nurfauza Jali*



## MOBILE CONTENT CHALLENGE 2007



The Mobile Content Challenge is a contest created for students of Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) in Malaysia to research and use new technologies to develop real world solutions for mobile telecommunications. This event is jointly organized by Maxis Communications Berhad, the Ministry of Energy, Water & Communications (KTAK) and the Malaysian Communications & Multimedia Commission (SKMM).

The objectives of the competition are to encourage students' development in the area of mobile content and application, to identify and cultivate an innovative and creative mindset amongst students, and to nurture a community of young entrepreneurs that will develop and provide Malaysian content.

The competition is divided into two phase, where the first phase consist of the submission and evaluation of concept paper from students team from public and private IHL in Malaysia. In total, there were 96 submissions from 35 IHLs, and out of the 96 submissions, 10 teams were selected to go for the second phase. The second phase started with an incubation workshop which was held for 3 days in Port Dickson. During the workshop, students were exposed to the technical and business details of developing mobile content, and each teams was also assigned an industry mentor (which consists of

world developer) from Maxis own developer program. The mentor guided each team in the technical and business aspect of transforming the concept into real product. Each team was given 6 – 8 weeks to create the prototype of the product. The prototype was evaluated using 4 criteria which are innovativeness, marketability, usability, and technical viability. On the 22nd of October 2007, the 5 teams presented their final product prototype to the panel of judges and also to the media.

On 6 September 2007, the 10 teams attended a preliminary round of presentation where out of the 10 teams, 5 teams were then selected for the final product demo on the 22nd October 2007. After a close scrutiny by the panel of judges, the team from UNIMAS, Team FoCuSIT with their product "HalalPro 1.0: Halal Product Verification Using Product Barcode For Mobile Devices" emerged as the first prize winner of the competition with the prize money of RM30,000 for the team and another RM30,000 for the IHL itself.

The product created by the team employed novel idea of using the barcode in every food product which can be captured with any mobile phone with camera capability, and the captured image (using MMS) send to the application portal which then process the bar



code image to extract the barcode number. The barcode number of the product is then compared to a data base for verification, in which the system will SMS the reply back to the user with the status and other relevant product information. The list of winners is as in Appendix 2.

Through the competition, students have gained knowledge on how to come up with a concept paper, the technical know-how to develop the prototype, and also the business aspect of creating and marketing their product to the real world. More importantly, they are able to hone their soft skills through numerous presentations, communicating with their mentor in a professional way, and exchange ideas with players from the industries. The competition is also offers the highest winning prize so far (in similar local competition) where the first prize winner (team) will get RM30,000 plus an additional RM30,000 for the IHL itself. But more important is the knowledge that the students gain from the beginning from the end. Hopefully, this competition will produce local talented entrepreneurs which will thrive not just in Malaysia, but all over the world.

	Team Name	Project Title	University College
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize Winner	FocusIT	Halal Food Product Verification Using Barcode Images in Mobile Environment with Halal Mobile Portal	UNIMAS, Sarawak
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner	Kids Cashier	Mobile Money Edutainment Kids cashier	Universiti Teknikal Malaysia, Melaka
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner	MMU Team 2	Interactive Mobile Video Broadcasting System	MMU, Cyberjaya
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize Winner	M.W.T.P	Welcome to Kampung	USM, Pulau Pinang
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize Winner	Comic Extend	Comic Extend	PTPL Sentral, Kuala Lumpur

Appendix 2



Hi there.

I'm Koon Foong (majored in Network Computing) Frankly, IT was not even 1 of my 8 choices. It had been a difficult life back then in UNIMAS. I still remember how I used to hate IT and UNIMAS. Currently, I'm working in Satyam Computer Services Ltd, Cyberjaya.

Now, I actually miss my life as a student in UNIMAS. To all my beloved juniors out there, I can say that IT is actually a difficult field that we are destined to. During my 1st year, my result was not that good. My CGPA back then was only 2.99. I hated IT and I found it hard to really absorb all those subjects that were taught. In my mind, I was just thinking about how ridiculous all those syntax in the programming was and how I was going to survive all those 3 years. But I graduated in Aug 2007 with a CGPA of 3.38.

It really doesn't matter whether we were given the field that we prefer or not. One thing that I have learnt through my studies in UNIMAS was nothing really matters as long as you have tried your very best in whatever you do. As time goes by, you will get the grip of whatever that is being taught. However, it will take time and perseverance. Not trying your best because you didn't get what you want is not the reason for not doing well in your studies

### Life in UNIMAS

IT taught in UNIMAS is totally different from other public or private universities. It is a lot tougher here. Every semester is a hard and hectic life in FIT. As a student in FIT, we have to study almost 20 credit hours each semester. Can you really imagine how life is in FIT? Each subject in FIT has at least 2 assignments and 1 project. with at least 7 subjects each semester, you will have approximately 21 assignments in hand, excluding all the exams you will have to go through. The worst NIGHTMARE in your life...

Every semester come and go at a fast pace. Do I actually remember what was being taught to me every semester? The answer is NO. There are a lot of things being taught to you and it is impossible to actually absorb 100% of each chapter in each subject. What I have to say is, most of the lecturers here are dedicated to help all those who are willing to learn. They are not just there to share their knowledge with you but they are there to guide, advice and lead you through the whole process of learning. I want to thank En Johari Abdullah, my mentor. He has continuously guided me through my years of studies there. Sometimes study doesn't mean 100% focus on academic. You will have to learn all the essential things that we go through in our life.

One of the things that I miss now is all the friends I have met in UNIMAS. They have taught me a lot of things in life called FRIENDSHIP. The moments that I have with them are unforgettable.

### Benefits from UNIMAS

As I have mentioned earlier, I am currently working in Satyam Computer Services Ltd. I joined this company with a few other FIT graduates on 23 July. I undergo 1 month of training. During that training, I realized that I have actually learnt a lot from FIT. The training include C programming, Operating System, Database Concept, Internet Concept and Data Structure. Each of the modules was taught in 2 days by a trainer from India. We didn't faced much problem because we have already learnt most of the things in UNIMAS; so it was just a revision for us. I noticed that UNIMAS equipped its students better than any other universities. Although UNIMAS might not be the top 10 public universities listed, the syllabus that we have here is the best. I'm proud to say that I'm a UNIMAS student. Other universities might have the same subjects we have, but all the subjects are widely covered in UNIMAS. We actually have an

advantage compared to graduates from other universities. After the 1 month training, I was assigned to Datawarehouse & Business Intelligence unit. Although I major in Network Computing, I didn't face any difficulties in this unit. It might be a new thing for me, but I believe that I'm capable to adjust myself in order to cope with the new environment. All those years of hard work in FIT, I'm 100% sure that there is no other thing that is tougher than what I have experienced in FIT.

### Tips

Here are some tips that I think might be helpful. Scoring a subject is not as hard as you think. What you need to do is work a little harder and have a good attitude towards study.

- Always be willing to try your best before giving up. It might not be easy but at least you have tried your best.
- Ask for advice or help from the lecturers.
- Pay attention in the class.
- Do your best in your assignments and midterm exam because it contributes 60% of your grade.
- Have faith in yourself. You might do better than you realized.

Don't think of what you can't have but think of what might be waiting for you if you keep going ahead with what is given to you. Life might not always be a smooth sailing journey but through the wave that we faced, we will discover life.



Wong Koon Foong  
Graduated 2007



## LETTERS FROM ALUMNUS

F<sup>csit</sup>  
Update

I officially left UNIMAS with hand wiping off tears of joy while the other holding the scroll of success in 2005. It was a moment to be cherished in my heart forever.

I have been working for more than two years since two weeks after I finished my, final semester examinations in 2005. Although this job is not quite related to what I have studied back in UNIMAS, it is considered a stable job. It is more to graphics while I majored in Internetworking. I must agree with what most people have said, "What we have learned in the university is not what we are going to apply in the real working life". Anyway, I still enjoy learning new things from time to time.

I remembered that during my first year stay in UNIMAS hostel, I used to cycle my yellow mountain bike to the lecture halls with some course-mates to attend classes and most of the time we were almost late for classes. There was once when we made great effort to attend class even though it was raining cats and dogs but by the time we settled down in class, the lecturer decided to call it a day for some reasons. We were like 'what?!' with our jaws dropping to the floor. UNIMAS was also a place where I met lots of new friends from all walks of life. We studied together, we had fun together and we had our meals together most of the time. . Those were really the good old days we had in UNIMAS.

I am glad that we did not only have fun but we also went through thick and thin together as well. Overloaded with assignments and projects to meet tight deadlines was one thing; the others were examinations, discouraging results, arguments with friends and unbearable human attitudes. All those were more than enough to make one feel stressed and sad but also turned one into a wiser and stronger person. That was the period of time when I was forced to grow up a bit.

Today, UNIMAS has a new campus. I have been there a couple of times. Each time I step my foot there, it still reminds me of the good old memories. I also believe that everybody have their own career now. To the others who decide to further their studies, I sincerely wish them best of luck! I feel that I am so blessed to be able to experience all these and be part of UNIMAS.

Eileen Yap  
Graduated 2005







### FCSIT ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

#### 1. FocusIT Nite '07

- FocusIT Nite held on 14th July 2007 was specially organized as a welcoming event for new students of 2007/08 batch. Thanks to active participation by students in various activities, the night was a night to remember with the best presentation award won by 'Mr. Cinderella' presented by students of Computational Science Program.

#### 2. Time Management Talk

- To attend to students' need and problems which was voiced through complaints lodged on stress and pressures faced as a university student, a talk on Time Management was held on 25th July 2007 as an aid towards effective time management. The speaker was no other than the Dean himself, Mr. Johari.



#### 3. Decoration of Student's Interaction Room

- To make Student Interaction room a place to facilitate an atmosphere of warmth and relaxation for students to interact with one another, SIR was re-decorated on the 26th July 2007 by addition of couch, framed pictures, and some other decorations to existing environment.



#### 4. Mentor-Mentee Program

- As a stepping stone to inculcate better communication between mentors and mentees, Mentor-Mentee Program was organized at 28th July 2007 at Pasir Panjang Beach where all new students of 2007/08 batch participated. The journey began at 6.00 am and ended at 4.30 pm with various interesting activities and sports events held throughout the day where students from Computational Science program appear victorious.

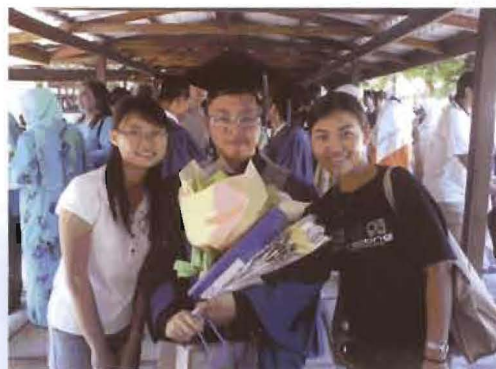


## 5. Printing Service

- Starting from 31st July 2007, printing service was offered to ease students in assignments and projects' proposals. This service was taken charge by PERTEKMA member's in turn. However, the service was stopped later due to the printer's technical damage.

## 6. FCSIT T-Shirt Project

- A project held every year; attractive T-Shirts were designed by PERTEKMA members and sold to students of FCSIT at reasonable prices to contribute to their fund.



## 7. Photography Studio Project

- In Conjunction with 11th Convocation, a Photography Studio Project was held at Students' Interaction Room from 5th August 2007 to 7th August 2007. Despite competitions between other photographing studios during the event, this project was greatly supported by graduates.

## 8. Secretariat for Software Freedom Program

- PERTEKMA was chosen as the secretariat for the Software Freedom Program organized by Kuching Open Source Community.



## 9. PC Fair 2007

- PC Fair 2007 was jointly organized by PERTEKMA with the assistance of PERTEKMA's Advisor II, Puan Hamimah through co-operation with some IT suppliers, such as Napoleon from the 17th August 2007 to 19th August 2007. The main concern of this fair was to overcome the problem faced by several new students who are in need of computers and at the same time short of transports and guidance.



## 10. Sabah & Brunei Trip

- An educational to Sabah and Brunei trip was organized from 19th November 2007 to 27th November 2007. Main targets were University Brunei Darussalam and Universiti Malaysia Sabah where participants were exposed to their culture and ways of learning



## 11. Freeky Futsal Competition

- 11 teams inclusive of FCSIT staffs took part in the Freeky Futsal Competition held on 26th January 2008 with Information Systems Team as winner. All other winners too were invited to attend FocusIT Dinner on 23rd March 2007 where the prize giving ceremony was held.



Susanto di gelanggang futsal





## 12. Foster School Project

- SRK Tambay was fostered by UNIMAS as a part of community service led by Wong Siew Moi where the main target was 26 primary pupils.

Learning sessions as held in Teaching Lab 2 as follow:

20th February 2008: Microsoft Word

27th February 2008: Microsoft Power Point

05th March 2008: Microsoft Excel

29th March 2008: Examinations and Prize Giving Ceremony

- A positive effect was shown through increasing performance of students in computer skills which was acknowledged through examinations held. Certificates were given to all those who participated successfully in these learning sessions organized by PERTEKMA.



## 13. FocusIT Dinner 2008

- This project was managed by President Louis Denis at Mango Tree Restaurant on the 23rd March 2008 from 6pm to 11pm with a charge of RM 30 per person for FCSIT students and RM40 for staffs and students from other faculties. 'Flora and Fauna', the theme for the night becomes the main focus of attendees' attires as they enjoy various shows and performance brought by FCSIT students and PERTEKMA members.





